GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1658
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2006
RESEARCH CENTRE ON GLACIOLOGY
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal to set up a Research Centre on Glaciology keeping in view rapidly receding of Himalayan glaciers ;

(b) If so, the details thereof ;

(c) The manner in which the Government proposes to coordinate with China and Nepal which are more susceptible countries for ill effects of the receding Himalayan glaciers ;

(d) Whether any report by WWF has been submitted on Himalayan glaciers; and

(e) If so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government have a plan to set up a National Centre for Field Operations and Research in Himalayan Glaciology

(NCFOR-HG) comprising of four regional centres all along the various sides of one Himalayan region. A detailed proposal to set up the proposed centre has already been formulated. As per recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Himalayan Glaciers, constituted by the Planning Commission, it has been recommended that:

The Centre may initially be co-located either with the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun (Uttaranchal) or the Headquarters of Snow &Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE), Chandigarh.The NCFOR-HG be set up as an autonomous research institution.The budgetary requirement of Rs. 36 crores may preferably be shared among the major stake holders i.e. the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Mines and Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) so that the centre is established and run in consortium mode.The final decision on the mode of setting up of NCFOR-HG may be taken by the Planning Commission.

The proposed areas of immediate attention to be undertaken under NCFRO-HG are:

Establishment of glaciological field observation stations for high quality standardised data collection on a representative number of

glaciers

Mass balance

Glacier hydrology

Sediment transfer

Glacier dynamics

Environment and climate

Glacial hazards

Integrated modelling of glacial processes

Data bank and information system

Manpower development in association with a leading University of North India

Some preparatory work on setting up the Regional Centres at Jammu, Shimla Dehradun and Almorah is in progress with the co-

operation of concerned agencies.

(c) Transnational issues would need bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.